

V. DEWEY ANNAKIN
and
HELEN WOODY ANNAKIN

An Interview Conducted by
Sr. Suzanne Dailey
June 2, 1981

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June 2, 1981

DATE

NARRATOR DATA SHEET

Name of narrator: Helen Woody Annakin

Address: 1100 Erie Avenue, Apt. 207, Evansville, IN 47715 Phone: _____

Birthdate: 02/08/02 Birthplace: Terre Haute, Indiana

Length of residence in Terre Haute: 64 years

Education: B.A., Indiana State

Occupational history: _____

Indiana State - Assist. Professor, Physical Education

Special interests, activities, etc. _____

Girl Scouting

Major subject(s) of interview: Collett Park Area of Terre Haute.

History of Terre Haute Girl Scout Camp, 1928-

History of Women's Physical Education Dept. at ISU.

No. of tapes: 2 Length of interviews:

Terms of legal agreement:

Interviewing sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>
06/02/81	1:00 P.M.	Evansville	Sr. Suzanne Dailey

492697

June 2, 1981

DATE

NARRATOR DATA SHEET

Name of narrator: Dr. V. Dewey Annakin

1100 Erie Ave., Apt. 207

Address: Evansville, IN 47715 Phone: _____

Birthdate: 06/26/1898 Birthplace: Akron, Ohio

West Terre Haute--9 years

Length of residence in Terre Haute: Terre Haute--50 years

Education: Ph.D., The Ohio State University; M.A., University of Wisconsin; B.A., DePauw University

Occupational history: _____

1926-1966 I.S.U. Professor of Sociology

1958-1966 Indiana State Senator

Special interests, activities, etc. _____

Rotary--District Governor

Terre Haute School Board

Indiana Legislature

Major subject(s) of interview: Terre Haute; Indiana State University; Indiana Legislature

No. of tapes: _____ Length of interview: _____

Terms of legal agreement: _____

Interviewing sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>
06/02/81	12:00 noon	Evansville	Sr. Suzanne Dailey

V. DEWEY & MRS. ANNAKIN

Tape 1

June 2, 1981

Annakins' residence - 1100 Erie Ave., Apt. 207, Evansville, IN
47715

INTERVIEWER: Sr. Suzanne Dailey

TRANSCRIBER: Kathleen M. Skelly

For: Vigo County Oral History Program

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SD: We are located in Evansville, Indiana. We are making a tape recording with V. Dewey Annakin, formerly of Terre Haute, Indiana. With me also is his wife, Mrs. Annakin, who is the former Helen Woody of Terre Haute, and his daughter, Ginnie Sutch, who is also of Terre Haute. I am Suzanne Dailey and the date today is June 2, 1981.

Mr. Annakin, maybe we could begin by having you tell us a little bit about how you came to Terre Haute. You were formerly from Ohio, if I understand.

ANNAKIN: I was born in Akron, Ohio. My father came from England when he was nine years of age. He had followed coal mining all of his life and moving out to this country, naturally he gravitated towards the centers of coal mining. And about two years after I was born, he came to Parke County, Indiana, because the coal mines were working well at that time in that part of the country. And naturally, being only about two or three years old, I stayed with the family in Parke County. And we lived in Parke County for six or seven years, and then he moved to West Terre Haute because the coal mines around there were booming. And again I lived with them there.

And I entered the West Terre Haute public school system in the 7th grade and finished through the 8th grade there, and then went on to high school.

SD: Do you remember anything about West Terre Haute in those days when coal mining was such a big part of the culture?

ANNAKIN: Not very much except just what you stated. Practically everybody in town was connected in one way or other with the coal mining industry. A few of the students I knew in high school, but very few, were from families that owned coal mines. The great bulk of them were actual miners.

ANNAKIN: You almost got three or four blue words in there when I spilled that coffee. (all laugh)

SD: You left West Terre Haute to go to school. You went to school outside the state?

MRS. A: He went through high school.

ANNAKIN: I went through high school in West Terre Haute.

SD: Um hm.

ANNAKIN: And then I went to DePauw at Greencastle, Indiana, where I graduated. And after I had graduated . . . or when I graduated, I got a scholarship to Wisconsin University, where I went the next year and took a master's degree in history. And then I went into high school teaching in Tulsa, Oklahoma. And I was out there for about three or four years before I came back to Terre Haute.

SD: So, you began your career as a high school teacher?

ANNAKIN: That's right.

SD: And you taught history in high school and then you came back to Terre Haute and you went on to school after that.

ANNAKIN: That's right.

SD: Did you teach in Terre Haute?

ANNAKIN: I never did.

MRS. A: Yes. Not in the schools. He taught in the college.

SD: Um hm.

MRS. A: He was called back to the college. Professor Bogardus called him back to teach. He was still teaching in Tulsa, and he had to quit there and come back /to/ teach at Indiana State with his master's degree then, you see.

But then two or three years later he went there -- Ohio State -- for his Ph.D.

ANNAKIN: I got the doctor's degree in sociology from Ohio State in 1940.

MRS. S: No, it wasn't 1940.

ANNAKIN: Not 1940.

MRS. A: Well, it was about 1938. He taught . . . he came back in three years with everything but the thesis, and he continued in Indiana State.

SD: So, you were teaching at Indiana State then in the late 1920s.

MRS. A: Nineteen /hundred/ twenty-six, he came back.

ANNAKIN: Nineteen /hundred/ twenty-six, I came.

SD: That was when Indiana State was a teachers college?

ANNAKIN: That's right.

MRS. A: Was it even a college, Dewey?

ANNAKIN: Yes.

MRS. A: I thought it was a Normal School.

ANNAKIN: No. Indiana State Teachers College and then it was Indiana State College and then Indiana State University.

MRS. A: That's right.

ANNAKIN: And I had the honor of introducing the bill to change the Teachers College title. But there's more than the titles /that/ changed. Every time they changed the name, it changed the organization of the board of control.

SD: And you were a part of that group that made that decision or . . .

MRS. A: In the /state/ senate.

SD: In the senate when you went through that.

ANNAKIN: I introduced the bill before . . .

SD: Can you speak about Indiana State during those first years when you were a teacher there? Do you remember any . . . what's some of the most significant . . .

ANNAKIN: Yes, I can remember some things. For one thing, it was . . . there was very tight controls over faculty and students. The degree of freedom that I had in my last ten years there was absolutely unknown when I first went there. Of course, I was busy, was active on the faculty meetings. But there were three or four dominant faculty people who were quite strait-laced and dogmatic and who decided almost every issue that came up in faculty meetings.

SD: Things like grading and absence policies, degrees and . . .

ANNAKIN: That's right.

MRS. A: Even to what the girls should wear and what they should not wear and . . .

SD: Did they have dress codes in those days?

ANNAKIN: Oh, yeah.

MRS. A: Well, they . . . girls couldn't have . . . first, they couldn't have their hair hanging down. The dean would come around the halls and pin up their curls or whatever they had hanging down. Then later it was nearly a sin to bob your hair.

SD: Oh, my!

MRS. A: Because when I was on the faculty, I had my hair bobbed and the dean just about had a fit. She couldn't understand why anybody on the faculty would bob their hair. (chuckles) And she even suggested that I wear some hair and pin it on when I was teaching classes in the gymnasium. Can you imagine? (laughs) Which I did to suit her! (more laughter)

SD: So, you were teaching physical education at the same time your husband was . . .

MRS. A: No, I taught two years before he was there. He was there seeing me when they found him. (laughs)

MRS. A: I taught as soon as I graduated for two years.

Then when we married, I quit teaching because married girls didn't teach in those days.

SD: Um hm. So, you both had early remembrances of those days then.

ANNAKIN: Oh, yes. Yeah.

SD: Now, at that time all of the students who came there were preparing to be teachers, is that . . .

ANNAKIN: Yeah.

SD: . . . and the curriculum was much . . .

MRS. A: Much smaller.

ANNAKIN: And the last year that I taught, I had several colleagues on the faculty who were in my class when they first came because, oh, up at least until the middle of the '20s, a person could go a term to a teacher training institution and then go out and teach and then come back and finish his degree whenever he felt like it. So, I could perhaps name a dozen people on the faculty who I had had in class when I first went there.

MRS. S: Dad, who were some of your best friends on the faculty? The people that you, you know . . . early people at State.

ANNAKIN: Well, Louis Retger.

MRS. A: Stalker?

ANNAKIN: Francis Stalker, Frank Bogardus, and . . .

MRS. A: Hines, President Linnaeus Hines.

ANNAKIN: Mr. Hines, yeah. And Olis O. Jamison.

SD: Otis Jamison?

ANNAKIN: Olis, o-l-i. . .

SD: Yes. Those are names of halls and buildings and all sorts of important things around ISU today.

SD: They were early professors at the university then?

ANNAKIN: Not early, but they were there in my early days.

SD: Um hm.

ANNAKIN: Louis Retger . . .

SD: You know, you were teaching at the time that the Depression came. Did that . . . how did that affect teaching in Indiana State, do you have any recollection?

ANNAKIN: Well, really . . . the governor of the state at that time was Governor Paul V. McNutt, who was a firm believer in education. So, he had . . . when I first came there or in the early days of the Depression, he had gone before the legislature and said now we've got to do something to prevent losing faculty or students. So, the legislature had to pass a bill which kept the budget of the college about like it had been. And students came if they could and if they couldn't, they didn't.

And I recall the enrollment during the Depression never was more than half what it was when I first went there in 1926.

MRS. A: But the teachers' salaries did not get cut which is very unusual. At nearly every other college we knew anything about the salaries were cut nearly 50%.

SD: But a lot of students just couldn't go?

MRS. A: A good many of the students could not. But it didn't affect the faculty at all.

SD: What about them getting jobs after college? I guess they had a harder time, too, at that time?

ANNAKIN: Well, I . . .

MRS. A: I wasn't conscious of that.

ANNAKIN: That varied a lot from year to year. And the

ANNAKIN: Depression itself didn't seem to have a tremendous influence on that.

MRS. A: We went to Ohio State in the first years of the Depression, so it was a good time to go . . . to stop teaching and go and get your degree. And we were lucky enough to get a professorship . . . or not a professorship but an assistantship at Ohio State.

ANNAKIN: In 1929 -- that's the year the Depression started -- I took a leave and started working on my doctor's degree at Ohio State. And I had just gotten settled in nicely when boom, it hit. I don't know how we got through it but we did.

Well, I do know.

MRS. A: We didn't have any trouble at all. I taught at Indiana State that year. President Hines said /that/ if I would come back and teach that year, since Dewey wasn't going to be teaching, he would give me Dewey's salary. So, I went back and taught physical education in 1929 and '30; and then I didn't like being away from my husband, so the next year I went over to Ohio State. But in the meantime, Dewey had an assistantship over there. And then he also took the head of the department's position at Ohio Wesleyan for one semester, which gave us a good salary. So we got through the Depression without really taking anything from our savings account, which is really quite a nice thing.

SD: That's unusual. One other thing before . . . you were there also during World War II. You were employed at . . .

ANNAKIN: Yes, I was.

MRS. A: Oh, yes.

SD: And I suppose that also had an impact on college.

MRS. A: Very much so.

ANNAKIN: Tremendous. We had a . . .

MRS. A: The ROTC came in there.

ANNAKIN: No. No, no.

MRS. A: Wasn't it?

MRS. S: V-12.

MRS. A: V-12, that's right. V-12.

ANNAKIN: That's a Navy program.

MRS. A: But those Navy . . . those programs helped out our enrollment greatly and made quite a impact on the school, with all those boys coming from everywhere. I know we had some very wonderful times with all those kids that came. And we'd have them out to the home and so forth so . . .

MRS. S: Dad, when were you dean of boys . . . dean of men at Indiana State?

ANNAKIN: During the second World War from 1941 to 1948.

SD: What was it like being dean of men? (laughs)

ANNAKIN: It was hell on wheels!

SD: (laughs)

MRS. A: He wasn't made to be a dean. (laughs) He didn't like reprimanding his own children (continues to laugh), let alone students.

ANNAKIN: We got along fine.

SD: How many young men were you in charge of about that time?

ANNAKIN: Oh, I'd imagine about twelve, fourteen hundred.

SD: That's a lot of people to . . .

ANNAKIN: Yes, it is.

SD: . . . to have to worry about at that time.

Well, in the . . . you did get involved in politics. You ran for the state senate in '58

SD: and were elected and served for two terms. How did that come about? What made you decide to . . .

ANNAKIN: Well, we had . . . are you talking about the school board now?

SD: Well, yeah, you did . . . you were in the school board in '50 . . .

ANNAKIN: well, we had a situation on the school board where it was equally divided. Each side killed what the other side wanted, so that we reached the place where they couldn't even get the checks or the vouchers signed to get a payroll out to the teachers. So, the citizens formed an organization to run their own candidate. And Ted Grob, Jr., who was in Rotary with me, called me up to ask me if I would take part in this citizens' committee. And I actually thought he was asking me to run, and so I said all right. Then I discovered I was elected to an office that I never really consented to run for.

SD: You thought he was asking you to be on a committee?

ANNAKIN: A citizens' committee.

SD: And instead he was asking for your name on the ballot?

ANNAKIN: He was asking me to be the candidate . . .

SD: (laughs)

ANNAKIN: . . . for that committee. *[It]* didn't make any difference; or I guess I should say, it was the same difference in the end.

SD: That was a time when the school system was expanding greatly, wasn't it in the early '50s?

ANNAKIN: That's right.

SD: And you would have had to have a lot of programs for school buildings and improvements that had been delayed?

ANNAKIN: Oh, yeah, yeah. Of course, when I went to the

ANNAKIN: state senate I ran into the same thing on a state basis rather than a city basis.

MRS. S: One of the things I remember about that election for school board, it was one of the first times I was ever aware of a bipartisan slate. You know, whether you were a Republican or Democrat didn't make any difference. They just put people on this slate that they thought would be good school board members. So, it was a bipartisan thing and I had not been familiar with that before. I'm trying . . . who else was on that slate, dad, do you remember?

ANNAKIN: That first one?

MRS. S: Yes.

ANNAKIN: Oh, my.

MRS. A: Wasn't Mr. Wayne Watson the superintendent?

MRS. S: Wayne Watson was superintendent of schools, but I mean who was on the school board's slate.

ANNAKIN: I remember who was on there afterwards with me but I can't remember that first . . .

MRS. S: That first slate.

ANNAKIN: No.

SD: So, you went from the school board to the state senate?

ANNAKIN: That's right.

SD: Did you have a hard campaign to get to the State . . .

ANNAKIN: Oh, no, no.

MRS. A: Well, tell them how you happened to run for the senate, how some of your former students came to you and talked you into it.

Are you going to try to . . .

ANNAKIN: First, that job with the school board members was made relatively easy because of the superintendent. Wayne Watson . . .

MRS. A: Wait, are you talking for this?

ANNAKIN: Yeah.

MRS. A: Do you have it on? Oh, I thought . . .

ANNAKIN: Wayne Watson was the superintendent, and his idea was to keep the board apprised of everything in the community that had an effect on the public school system. So, he would simply come into the board meeting and explain what the situation was; and being a good school man, he had three or four recommendations for every situation. And it wasn't difficult for the board to separate items . . . separate out the best one of those three or four. So, I think a great deal of what was accomplished during my term on the school board was a direct result of the kind of a superintendent we had. And I can't give Wayne too much credit for that because he was what I think of as an ideal administrator whether you're talking about schools or shoe factories or /the/ foundation garment industry.
(laughs heartily)

(all join in laughter)

ANNAKIN: I had to get that last in there.

(all laugh)

MRS. S: Now, why don't you go to /the/ state senate?
Why did you . . .

MRS. A: It's too bad poor Wayne doesn't . . . that's not on, is it?

SD: Yeah, it is.

MRS. S: Why did you run for state senate?

ANNAKIN: Well, we had state senator who had been in the office for a number of years. What was his name?

MRS. S: Boyle.

ANNAKIN: What?

MRS. S: Boyle, wasn't it?

ANNAKIN: Yeah.

MRS. S: From Sullivan County.

ANNAKIN: That's right, from Sullivan County. And for a number of years he had been the attorney for the coal miners' union. The immediate reason that I ran was that he was . . . he had come up to Terre Haute and some people had said he had gotten pretty well plastered (but I don't know about that). Any-way he was on his way back to Sullivan at night, and a state policeman was interrogating a driver at the edge of the pavement. And our senator accidentally ran into him and injured him. And then when he was fined, the party insisted on running him for senate again which was, of course, using the party to vindicate his misconduct, if there was any misconduct. So they wanted to get somebody else. And I had made a good showing in the election for school board. In fact, I got the largest number of votes and so they turned to me. That's what they're always looking for, you know -- the guy that can pull the vote.

MRS. S: So you ran against Boyle in the primary and defeated him?

ANNAKIN: That's right. And I went to the county chairman, who was /Lawrence/ "Dutch" Letzkus, and told him what I intended to do. And he said, "Well, if you get elected in the primary, I will deal with you just exactly the same as I deal with all other Republicans /Democrats/ that win in the primaries." And that's the way it was.

MRS. S: You mean Democrat.

ANNAKIN: He was a Democrat. And he gave me a lot of advice and a lot of know-how that I never was . . . that I would never have been able to use because I didn't have it. But he treated me squarely; and I think, if anything, he may have leaned a little bit backwards to get me elected and I'm eternally grateful to him for his help.

MRS. S: Dad, do you know how long "Dutch" Letzkus was chairman of Vigo County?

ANNAKIN: No.

MRS. S: He had been for a while before you came into the picture.

MRS. A: And he was a long time after.

SD: He was followed by Ralph Berry, is that . . .

ANNAKIN: That's right.

SD: Yeah.

MRS. A: Ralph Berry was in the legislature, wasn't he?

ANNAKIN: No. He was prosecuting attorney.

SD: So, you went into the state senate in 1950 . . . you ran in '58 and went in in '59?

ANNAKIN: Well, the session always starts the year . . . the calendar year after the election. So my first actual experience in it was in '59, I think.

MRS. S: Um hm. See, I did my student teaching in . . .

SD: Did you enjoy your sessions? Did you enjoy that experience? You did a lot for education when you were . . .

ANNAKIN: Yeah, and I enjoyed it thoroughly. But I . . . well, I suppose I should have had, but I didn't have any idea how many different interests there were in a community the size of Indiana. There were agricultural interests, manufacturing interests, mining interests. Everybody was interested in education and in traffic. There were some religious interests that would fall normally outside the range that we normally talk about. Well, do I need to clarify that?

SD: Did you find that you had to learn what each one of these wanted and how to . . .

ANNAKIN: That's right.

MRS. A: The different lobbyists would meet with him and come and try to talk him into, you know, their line. (laughs)

ANNAKIN: Right. I learned very early to watch men

ANNAKIN: that I trusted. Here's a fellow that was interested in insurance, and I felt that I could trust his word. So, I went to him and said, "Now here's this bill coming up which affects the way you make your living. What do you think of it? Both sides of it." And if he was honest, he would tell me. And they always did because -- it may sound odd -- but lobbyists lose their jobs faster than the legislators lose theirs.

SD: These people that you went to, were they other legislators or were they members of the community?

ANNAKIN: Oh, they were members of the community or some of them were in the legislature.

SD: So, you had to build a network of colleagues and also have a network in the community that you could depend upon.

ANNAKIN: That's right.

SD: And some issues that you sort of specialized in were, naturally, education.

ANNAKIN: That's right.

SD: You mentioned the fact that you were there and actually introduced the bill to start the vocational schools.

ANNAKIN: That's right. But that was quite a bit later.

MRS. S: That was near the end of your second term?

ANNAKIN: Um hm.

SD: Why did Indiana go to the vocational school plan? What was the state system?

ANNAKIN: Well, first there was a need. There was a need on the part of personnel for training; and there was a need from the standpoint of the educational system to make it complete. And I worked very closely with the men in the vocational department of the college. Most of them had been there a long time, so I felt that their judgment was valid.

I remember one day -- and this was along toward my last days in the senate -- the chairman of the

ANNAKIN: budget committee of the senate asked me to have lunch with him, which I did. And he very frankly asked me, "What do you think of the budget that Indiana State has turned in?" Well, I had looked at it and I said, "It's lower than I thought it would be." I said it would be interesting if you would take these budgets of the state institutions and look at all of them because you'll find that Indiana State, for what you're giving them to spend, has for years turned out the best grade of education and the best grade of graduates. And I told him what I thought it ought to be, which was about \$15,000 higher than they had submitted. And he didn't question it at all. He just crossed out what he had on his paper and wrote \$15,000 in. And that's the way it was passed.

I think people have the wrong attitude toward their politicians. Most of them, as I came to know them, were honest, sincere men. The kind of men you'd want if you were running any kind of an organization. And when people talk to me about them being greedy and self-seeking, well, that's characteristic of everybody whether they're in the senate or not. But it isn't nearly as . . . and another thing, you try to change anything and you'll find there are as many elements in the state against the change as there are for it. One term we had quite a campaign on reducing the expenses of the state. So, when I got to Indianapolis to start studying it, it looked entirely different. /Some people would say, / "Let's cut the state police." /Others would say, / "We can't cut the state police; crime is on the increase. We've got to enlarge it now." Well, that's out. Well, the next great big piece of the budget pie was education. "Let's cut that." "Heavens, no! We've got to keep our children educated!" And it was that way with every little thing that came up. There were just as many people for it as there were against it.

SD: Who were some of the people that you really remember in the state legislature as being really outstanding?

ANNAKIN. Well, Mr. O'Bannon of Corydon, Indiana.

SD: Was that Frank O'Bannon?

ANNAKIN &
MRS. A: (in unison) O'Bannon.

MRS. S: Is that the present legislator's father or
is it . . .

MRS. A: Um hm.

MRS. S: It's his father?

ANNAKIN &
MRS. A: (in unison) Yes.

MRS. A: I think he owned the paper in Corydon.

ANNAKIN: Yeah.

MRS. S: Frank O'Bannon.

MRS. A: Fine man.

ANNAKIN: He was a graduate of Purdue, but for years he
ran a newspaper in Corydon. And he was a good
speaker. He was well acquainted with the problems
of the state, and he was absolutely honest. So I
depended a lot on his opinions.

SD. When you finished at the state legislature
in 1966, you did come back and run for mayor of
Terre Haute?

ANNAKIN: In the next primary election I ran against
Gilbert Tucker.

MRS. S: Ralph.

ANNAKIN: Or Ralph Tucker and he defeated me by a number
of votes which was exactly equal to the number of
his people on the payroll.

SD: Do you have any recollections of Ralph Tucker?
I've heard a lot about him.

ANNAKIN: I think he is a most astute politician. After
I'd been out of the senate, oh, perhaps six months,
John F. Kennedy came to Terre Haute. And, of course,
they had all of the party people on a platform built
out on the steps -- the west steps -- of the court-
house. And John Kennedy came in and I was right

ANNAKIN: behind him on the platform. And he turned around and he said, "You're name's Annakin, isn't it?" And I thought, "Well, where did you find that out?" Then I learned that on the way over, they had coached him on who would be there and about where they'd be seated. But at any rate, it made an impression on me.

SD: Was that when Kennedy was campaigning?

ANNAKIN: I guess he must have been campaigning for the presidency. I don't remember exactly.

BREAK IN RECORDING

TAPE 1-SIDE 2

ANNAKIN: Somebody in the labor organization got the idea that all members of the labor organization should march down to the courthouse and meet Kennedy. And I got down there early, and there wasn't a laboring man there that I could see. The only person that I knew was Ralph Tucker, who was standing over in the doorway of the city office building. And as soon as he saw me, he rushed down and said, "Well, I'm glad to see you here." He said, "You're the only representative of labor," which I wasn't, "here."

Well, now I hadn't been very kind to Ralph in the campaigning. The fact is I had suggested some pretty nasty things about him. But I thought if here's a fellow that can forget that in order to compliment me on a little thing like this that I've done to support the party, that boy has sure got the makings of a politician. And he did! He was always very kind and considerate of me no matter where we were. He never pumped me out, but on the other hand, he never deflated me any. And that's the part that counts. Well, that's Ralph, Ralph Tucker.

SD: (laughs)

ANNAKIN: (laughing) He was as big a crook as he was a good politician.

(all laugh)

ANNAKIN (aside) Don't you remember? There was some house of prostitution run by some woman, and her

ANNAKIN: husband was an accountant. And he had put down everything they had spent running that house - the names of all the girls, how much they paid them per week. He even gave it to Joe. And Joe said, "What shall I do with it?" I said, "Turn it over to the federal." He did and they didn't do a blooming thing. Never did.

I could tell you another one that never should go on here. But Matthew Welch was the governor, and he called me in his office and he talked to me for an hour. He said, "I am constantly getting notice from Washington of monies that I can allot for spending here in Indiana. But I wouldn't dare take any of that money if Ralph Tucker is to spend it." He said, "If you got elected," he said, "as mayor of Terre Haute," he said, "I could throw all kinds of . . . and will, all kinds of things in your direction." So, I took his word and he never did a danged thing.

SD: Was that a hard campaign or was it a bitter campaign?

ANNAKIN: No, no.

SD: That 1966 one?

MRS. A: You had several TV debates, didn't you? It seems to me. And we thought you were followed around by some of Tucker's men, and you didn't know it at the time but you were told later. If I'd known it, it would have scared me to death. (laughs)

ANNAKIN: Probably /would have/ scared me to death, too.

SD: You had a very busy life during . . .

ANNAKIN: That's right.

SD: . . . your time as a teacher and a . . .

ANNAKIN: I'll tell you. I have spoken to commencements all over the state of Indiana; and particularly, I was well known in Sullivan County. And part of my votes were from Sullivan so that was a good thing.

MRS. S: When did you make all the commencement addresses, dad? Probably like 1947 through 19-- . . . '59?

ANNAKIN: Oh, yes. All through the '40s.

MRS. S: And '50s.

ANNAKIN: And all through the '30s.

MRS. A: You started not long after we came back. So, most of our teaching lives in Terre Haute he did make quite a number. In fact, all of our vacations were paid for (laughing) by commencement addresses.

MRS. S: Well, I remember May. You know he was gone a lot in May because he was making commencement addresses.

MRS. A: Oh, yes, a lot. We'd go with him sometimes.

MRS. S: Yeah.

MRS. A: I know all the back roads of Indiana. (chuckles)

ANNAKIN: I do know people expect you to say certain things in a certain kind of speech, and I just wouldn't do it. I was supposed to tell them, "You can be a success. No matter what you want, you can be a success if you want it." Well, that isn't true. I might have wanted very much to be governor of this state, but I couldn't have three girls just because I wanted them. (laughs)

But I read a story about that time that kind of brought me around. A father was talking to his 12-year-old son, trying to get him to be more independent. "In the book, who selected your reading? Now, it's all right for reading assignments in textbooks, but," he said, "one of these days you're going to have to do the selecting yourself." And he said, "The only way to do that is just read as widely as you can. And remember," he said, "when Lincoln was your age, he was walking 10, 12 miles to borrow a book, bring it home and read. And then he walked 10 or 12 miles the next day to return the book." And the kid said, "Yeah, dad, and remember when he was your age, he'd been president of the United States for three years." (all laugh)

SD. One of the things the historical society is interested in is some of your recollections of the changes, the significant changes that have taken place in the community.

ANNAKIN: In what?

SD: In Terre Haute or in the county?

MRS. A: That's a big order.

ANNAKIN: Well, there's no more the dominant industry, and therefore the miners' union doesn't have any influence they used to have. I couldn't answer for any other unions but that one caused a lot of problems.

SD: Well, the railroads, too, had a lot of . . .

ANNAKIN: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Right.

SD: . . . role in Terre Haute. Were they still big when your . . .

ANNAKIN &
MRS. A: (in unison) Oh, yes.

MRS. A: Yes, the Union Station was a focal point of Terre Haute, really. It was a beautiful station. A lot of trains came through. And as a child that was one of the nicest things we could do was to go down on the streetcar to the Union Station, watch the trains come in, see the people getting off. And usually, we were meeting somebody. But, oh, the railroads were very important.

MRS. S: What about the other forms of transportation in Terre Haute. I've heard you talk about the interurbans.

MRS. A: Well, the interurbans . . . the interurban was at its height when I was a child.

SD: Where did that go?

MRS. A: They went from Terre Haute to Paris, Illinois; from Terre Haute to Clinton, Indiana; from Terre Haute to Indianapolis and on to Anderson; and then from Terre Haute to Sullivan. Now, those were the ones that I rode on, all of those.

SD: Were they like trains or streetcars?

MRS. A. No, they were one big green . . .

ANNAKIN: Coach.

MRS. A: . . . coach, like the coach of a train, one . . . I remember they were always green -- the ones that came into Terre Haute. And they ran by electricity and . . .

SD: What was the fare?

MRS. A: Well, I can't remember but the fare was comparable to what the train would be or . . . it seemed to me we went to Clinton for a quarter. I'm nearly sure that was the fare to Clinton. And, of course, that was . . .

ANNAKIN: I didn't have very much money . . .

MRS. A: . . . very little.

ANNAKIN: . . . and I came to Terre Haute every weekend from Greencastle on the interurban, so it couldn't have been very much.

MRS. S: You came home from college every weekend.

ANNAKIN: Yeah.

MRS. A: To see his girl. (laughs)

ANNAKIN: And reading.

(all laugh)

SD: You grew . . . maybe we could talk a little bit about . . . you grew up in Terre Haute?

MRS. A: I was born on North 7th Street where I reared our family and lived all my life until Dewey retired from college teaching.

SD: Who built that house up there?

MRS. A: My two uncles, my mother's brothers, were both carpenters in the west. And in the panic of /18/93 they were out of work, and they suggested they come

MRS. A: and build a home for my mother and father. And they did. They lived with my mother and father on Oak Street. It must have been a pretty full house then. There were four children and these two uncles. And they built the house that's standing now out there at 2432 North 7th Street. It has eight rooms, square house. And then when I came along, the seventh child, they needed more room than the eight rooms. So my father took a mortgage on the home and borrowed \$2,000 to build the back two rooms on that house. So it's, at present, a 10-room house.

And then we all grew up there. And all of our family went to the Terre Haute colleges, the three boys through Rose Poly and the four girls through Indiana State. And all of us became teachers and the boys became engineers. And then they all left home, and I was the only one left in Terre Haute when we married.

SD: And then you lived in the house?

MRS. A: Then my father was alone and we stayed there. And he gave us the home and I was . . .

SD: Was this the first house in that area or have all those other homes . . .

MRS. A: There were . . . the Smith property up on North 7th Street -- the big farm, you know, where the florist shop is?

SD: Um hm.

MRS. A: That was built just a little before our home was built. And I think I can just about remember nearly every other house that was built, even I as the youngest of the family. So it must have stood right there with a big fence around it, and we had just sort of like a little farm. We had a barnyard and we had a cow and a big red barn behind. And we were a block from Collett Park, and Collett Park was entirely fenced in at that time. And there was woods between us and the park. And along Indiana Avenue - now I don't remember this but the older sisters do -- along Indiana

MRS. A. Avenue up 8th Street to Delaware Avenue there was a streetcar. And it went up to fairgrounds at 8th and Delaware. Of course, there are all homes up there now. But that was the first fairgrounds before the one out on Wabash Avenue.

Now, they used to have, oh, programs like Chautauquas and shows and things like that up there. Now, I do not remember but my older sisters have told me about those. They'd sit up in the bedroom of our home and they could see the crowds going up there. They were never allowed to go because my mother thought the shows wouldn't be for her children. But they always watched it and they just watched the crowds going up there. But not very many people in Terre Haute remember that that took place.

Then that woods across where there are all the homes now was a lovely woods and that's where we played.

SD: So, it was quite an area at that time?

MRS. A: Oh, it was a lovely place to rear a family really. We were outside the city. My father thought he'd gotten well out of the city. But, of course, it wasn't long before it was brought into the city.

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. A: Now, they want me to tell what I remember of Maple Avenue church.

Well, the first thing I can remember of Maple Avenue church is sitting in the sanctuary with my family which numbered seven of us plus our mother and father, nine, and usually a cousin, ten. And we always sat in the third seat from the front in the center in this sanctuary that was built just before the one that is there now. Those were the days when families went to church together. And that was the big time in our life was Sunday, because we had so much to do on Sunday. We'd start Sunday school in the morning No, I take it back. We started junior league in the morning

MRS. A: and went to church. /We/ went home for a big dinner, then went back to Sunday school in the afternoon, and then went to Epworth League at night and church at night. And that was our social life. We really thought that was one of our very biggest days of the week.

But before I came along, my mother and father belonged to Maple Avenue Church with their family of four that came to live in the house after it was built. And that was when Centenary Methodist Church made Maple Avenue their mission church, and it was just a little mission out there in the Twelve Points area because they didn't have any Methodist church out there. So, Centenary really was the parent of Maple Avenue until they got so they could . . .

SD. Did they have their own minister at Maple Avenue?

MRS. A. Well, now I don't know. That was really when I was a baby and probably before. They may have used the Centenary minister for a while, just like the churches do. And then when they could get so that they could pay a minister, they got a minister, which was very soon because it was a growing community and a lot of families used Maple Avenue for their church.

And so when I came along in 1902, Maple Avenue I know was paying their own minister then because I can remember the first minister I remember was a man by the name of Briggs, Rev. Briggs. Then we had several others. Rev. Munger was the . . . Rev. Albert Munger, who was the minister for I think about 10 or 12 years, was really a wonderful man and made the church grow. He was a wonderful preacher and Maple Avenue grew very much at that time because about that time (it was about 1912-13) Garfield was built. And so there were a great many young people who were unchurched and who were drawn to our church.

SD: Was that Garfield High School?

MRS. A: Yes, right across the street. Because Mr. Munger was such a far-seeing man that he realized

MRS. A: that the young people had to have something to do, he and the board members got busy and got donations. And they built the third story on Maple Avenue which was a lovely gymnasium at that time and the only gymnasium in that part of the The schools did not have basketball and all those things at that time. So, Maple Avenue had they even paid teachers to teach physical ed classes; and they had regular games, regular basketball games, with the other churches. I think they were the Methodist churches of town. Centenary and Montrose and First Church and all the Methodist churches went together and had a league. And they always came to Maple Avenue because it was the only one that had a gymnasium.

So, those were my recollections of my early days at Maple Avenue. I just can't remember them building those buildings, and I don't remember when the first building . . . because that was before I was born. But I have seen pictures in my mother's pictures of this little mission church.

We'd have to go from our home, 7th and Indiana, through Collett Park and to the church, which was about an 8-block walk, right through the park. And we did the same thing to go to Collett School and to go to Garfield. That was in the days before McLean. I went through school before McLean was built. And so I had all my first grades in Collett School, and then I went to Garfield for four years and then to Indiana State. So, all of my schooling, except one year when I went away to a girls' school

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About what?

MRS. S: Tell about Collett Park.

SD: Collett Park.

MRS. A: Oh! Well, we always went through Collett Park, which was the park of town. The streetcar ended at 8th and Maple Avenue. And I can remember just hordes of people getting off of those streetcars -- the summer streetcars you know with the horizontal seats -- getting off to come up to Collett Park on Sunday afternoon to hear the band concert that would

MRS. A be that night. And then they also had a band concert on Thursday nights and the same amount of people would come on Thursday.

SD: Was Collett Park about the size that it is now?

MRS. A: It's exactly the size. It couldn't be any different because it was bounded by houses completely around, you see.

But they always had lovely picnic tables and it was a beautiful park. I can remember when down the center walk -- which is not true now -- they had urns completely from Maple Avenue and 8th Street clear through to Collett Avenue, the end of the park -- beautiful urns of geraniums and things like that growing in them. And, of course, as long as we had . . . there were several good men that took care of the park in those days, and we had a beautiful park.

We would go through on Sunday to go over to the church to everything. Sunday was supposed to be really a Sabbath Day in my family. And we didn't get to go to things like our children go to now on Sunday. We could look over . . . see and hear the band, but we couldn't stay there. And we went to church that night and we came home about a quarter after nine, and we'd go very slowly through the park.

SD: (laughs)

MRS. A: (laughs) So, then we could hear at least until ten o'clock because that's when "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played and the concert was over. But we certainly got to go on Thursday nights because my mother would make a nice big picnic. We went over nearly every Thursday night in the summer. And my cousin would come out on the streetcar, and we'd run up and meet her. We had a wonderful picnic -- we thought it was wonderful. I don't remember really what we had but we had a nice dinner there. And then we would have . . . we would listen to the band concert. And I always got a nickel to spend, and I could have a sundae or a sack of popcorn. And I think I usually took the sundae because (commence laughing) it was just a little better than the popcorn, I thought.

SD: Did they sell that in the park or did you . . .

MRS. A: In that lovely . . . in that building that is there now. It was just exactly like that only the center part was all open. On one side we had ice cream tables, and we could get our ice cream there. And in the part in front they had glass cases where we could buy candy. And then they always had a popcorn machine out in front and we could get our popcorn. And that place was just swarms of people there every Thursday and every Sunday when the band concert . . . Why somebody doesn't make a concession out of that now, I don't know. It's very dead and . . .

ANNAKIN: We could go over to the concession stand.
(laughs heartily)

MRS. A: It could have been made . . . it could be made right now into a lovely place for dinners or anything. It's got good lines, if you go up and look at Collett Park. It hasn't changed in that way at all. It's just the inside that . . . But there was one family that lived down on South 4th Street. I wish I could think of their names. But they ran that. I can just see that woman walking up to that concession stand and opening it and then her husband coming later. And the whole family ran that and they were lovely people. And they really had a wonderful business there.

But I can remember so well forming a parade around that bandstand and marching to their marches and (laughs) . . .

SD: Who were the bands? Were they local people?

MRS. A: I think Dewey said he even played in that band one time, didn't you?

ANNAKIN: Yeah, I forgot what they called them.

MRS. A. I think . . .

MRS. S: It was a local band.

MRS. A: It was a local band and perhaps each summer

MRS. A: there were different men. I really don't know.

But we thought it was a wonderful band. We had wonderful concerts.

So, that's my recollection . . . And Collett Park then I can remember when they put the first chute the-chutes in. We called them the chute the-chutes, I don't know why.

SD: What's a 'chute-the-chute?

MRS. A: Well, the slide.

SD: Oh.

MRS. A: The slide. And I was just the age when I went up and down and up and down one whole day that that slide was put in and completely wore out a pair of white high-top shoes that my dad had brought home and were supposed to be my summer shoes. I went completely through the back end of those in one day.

ANNAKIN: (laughs)

SD: (joins in laughter)

MRS. A: And that night cried all night with a leg ache. (laughs)

Well, let's see . . . then I remember when they put the tennis courts in and I learned to play tennis up in Collett Park. Then later taught tennis at Indiana State.

MRS. S: When did they take the fence down, do you remember?

MRS. A: I do not remember the fence. My family before me, all remember the fence. But the only fence I can remember is the fence around our home. We had a big, high fence around that; and I can remember that because I used to go out and sit on the top of it and watch the horses and buggies go by on North 7th Street.

I guess that's about . . .

MRS. S: I want to hear about Christmas in the study.

MRS. A: Oh, Christmas! Well, Christmas was the big day at our house. Always has been and it always will be, I expect.

As I say, I had a big family. That always makes for a good Christmas and we loved, from the very beginning, to decorate. Before they had such beautiful decorations as they have now, we went out and cut down our own trees and always brought them back -- our Christmas tree. For some reason, it always had to be in the room where the fireplace was, which was the smallest room in the house. You call it the study now, but we called it the parlor. I don't know why because it wasn't nearly as big as our living room, but that was the parlor. And the Christmas tree stood in the corner where now there are bookcases, and it was very near the fire. I don't understand why they would have ever had a Christmas tree that near the fire. But we did. That's where it was. And they always put nine chairs in that room, straight chairs from the dining room. And that's where our Christmas presents were? Each of us had a chair. Now, that'd be quite different than now because the children would look at a chair and think, "My goodness, is that (laughs) all the Christmas we're going to have?"

ANNAKIN: (laughs)

MRS. A: We thought we had an awful lot of Christmas. But, of course, baby buggies and things like that were out in front of your chair. But on each chair always we had a big plate for each one, full of candy. And that was our candy, and we had to keep our candy and eat from our plate, not from everybody's. And when we got through, that was gone. And we got one orange. But I can remember my father would go to Smith's grocery over on 9th and Buckeye with five dollars, and that was an enormous lot for a man to put on candy, that had a big family. And he would bring home that seemingly, bundles of candy that was put upstairs in mama and papa's closet until Christmas time. And I can even remember the kind of candy we had. (laughs) We had the sugar candy. The pretty pinks and greens, the sugar creams. And we had mothballs; we called them mothballs, with the almond in it. And we . . . what other candy?

MRS. A: We had stick candy always. Now, those three candies are very clear in my mind. And we just thought we had -- and we did -- we had . . . it was a lot of candy. In those days you got a good deal more than you get for five dollars now.

Then we'd come down on Christmas morning all together. We'd all be awakened and we all had to make our beds and we all had to be fully dressed. And then we went downstairs together. And the little one, the youngest, always got to go first; and then they went according to ages. And to this day, our different families come down the steps that same way. And we all come down singing some Christmas carol. It was usually "Joy to the World." And we'd go in that . . . can you imagine nine of us in that little study at home? And the fire would be going. My older brother would always get up. He had a paper route so when he got back, he always made the fire. And we came down and opened our presents all together in that little room. And then we had breakfast. We didn't have any breakfast until we'd all opened our presents and been down there together.

And then the whole Christmas Day was spent playing with our toys and going to the neighbors' and having our neighbors come in and see our Christmas.

And I, one Christmas especially, remember getting a red stocking cap and red gloves, and I couldn't go to enough neighbors to show off my stocking cap and gloves! And then later, my two sisters went away to Anderson, Indiana, to do their first year of teaching. They bought me with their money, which wasn't very much at that time . . . I mean we'd think it was very little what they made, but they brought me a lovely doll -- and they had been making all fall pretty clothes for that doll -- and a doll buggy. And I'll never forget the looks of that doll and doll buggy that I got that Christmas. It was a little better than I'd ever had before.

So, every Christmas for that, we did . . . I started out to say about our decoration. We all made . . . for a long time before Christmas we'd get so excited about Christmas. We'd get each other presents, you know. And I can remember very

MRS. A: well always having a dollar that I had saved for the nine of us. And I could spend a nickel on each one of my brothers and sisters and a dime on my mother and father. And I had lovely presents from the 10-cent store. You'd be surprised what nice presents they had (commences to laugh) at the 10-cent store. Always something useful but something good.

ANNAKIN: (joins in the laughter)

MRS. A: So, that was really so much fun. And we always made paper chains, and that's what we decorated with. And my brother was a great big 6-footer; and he'd get up to the chandelier and fasten the chains around the chandelier and then festoon them, or drape them, to the four corners of the living . . . the big room, not the little room, but the big living room. And we always had the paper bells, red bells. I think they're a thing of the past but maybe they're coming back. I've seen a few lately.

If you live long enough, you'll see everything that you thought was old fashioned come back. And that's the place where I am now. Even the styles are the styles that my mother grew up with, not I. They just (laughs) look awfully old-fashioned to me.

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. A: I went away in my freshman year to Illinois Women's College, and now it's called MacMurray College. And I wasn't satisfied with what I was getting and then I . . . At that time I had thought that I wanted to major in physical ed, but I hadn't majored in it before that time. So, when I came back, there was a . . . Miss Lillian Sanger was teaching physical education at Indiana State. Now, she was just called a gym teacher. She was there just to give unprepared classes, but she came from some very fine schools and was educated in Vienna. Her early education was in Vienna. And then she came to one of the foremost of the physical education schools in Wisconsin, which was . . . oh, what was the name of that school? I can't think of it right now. But they had some very fine physical education there, and she was determined she was going to have a department and make physical ed teachers for the state of Indiana.

MRS. A: So, she didn't get much encouragement from Dean Bogardus at that time, who later relented. But at first, she had to talk and perhaps do some . . . they really came to blows (laughs) about . . . one time, I remember. But finally she went to the state department, and she talked them into making a department. And I happened to be one of her admiring students. And she had taken me to Chicago to see a lot of these lovely classes in some of the conference or . . . what do you call it?

MRS. S: Workshops.

MRS. A: Workshops up there. They didn't call them workshops right at that time. But I remember it was a wonderful eye-opener to me -- the Danish and the German and all the different types of gymnastics. And I came back, really just as enthused as I could be.

So, I started majoring . . . when she got permission to have majors so that we'd be ready to teach physical education, I started in taking that. I'd had a lot of my college work before, before she started that; so I gave my whole senior year to physical education because I had a biology major and an anatomy major.

MRS. S: What year would that have been?

MRS. A: And I graduated . . . that was in . . . about 1922. I went away in '21. So, when I graduated in '22, I had taken all the courses that . . . of course, the science department and so forth had given courses, too. And I was ready to teach. And I had gone to Akron, Ohio, where my sister lived and had applied for a job there. And I had applied in Terre Haute, Wiley High School, for just to teach unprepared physical education classes.

Miss Sanger approached me and said she wanted me to come back and teach in the department. So I was hired by L. N. Hines, the president. I was given the . . . they called them assistant professors at that time. I taught prepared classes and the anatomy and kinesiology and prepared classes in all the different methods and so forth, and the unprepared as well.

SD: What's the difference between prepared and unprepared?

MRS. A: Well, unprepared is really practicing what you've been taught. Like in methods, you took the methods of teaching; then your unprepared classes were actually doing those things. In a prepared dancing class, you studied the folk dancing of every country and you learned the dances. And then you'd take unprepared and dance them and put on shows with the unprepared . . . the folk, real folk dancing. And that's true in all the different subjects, you see.

So, Miss Sanger and I were the only two in the department that year. And then a woman came by the name of Miss Gibbons that sort of had specialized in sports, and so she taught some of the sport classes such as basketball and that type of work.

And then Miss Sanger left to go to Chicago to be married, and Mr. Hines called me in and asked what my plans were. Well, I told him my plans were to be married the next year. And so he knew that I wouldn't be at Indiana State because at that . . . In the meantime, Dewey had come to teach at Indiana State, and I didn't even think that I'd ever think of teaching after . . . I was going to have a family and have ten rooms to keep, so I didn't think . . . I never gave it a thought to teach.

MRS. S: You might have been good.

MRS. A: So . . . no, women didn't work . . . when your husband was paid by the state, you didn't get paid by the state, too.

So, when he learned of that, he said, "Well, we've got to have somebody take Miss Sanger's place, so would you be here next year to help that person get started in this department." And I said, "Sure would," and I didn't care whether I was made head when I wasn't going to stay anyway.

So, they hired Miss Curtis, Miss Florence Curtis. She stayed many years, up until . . . well, when was it? About 10 years ago.

MRS. S: 'Til her retirement. I don't know.

MRS. A: "Til her retirement . . . until she retired. And so I taught that year with her. And then the next June we were married and I finished out the summer. And then I quit at Indiana State to go back only the one year in '29 when Dewey went away. And so I really taught three years at Indiana State.

SD: Was physical . . . what was physical education at that time? Was it . . . you said it was mostly . . .

MRS. A: Ours was to prepare girls to go out and teach in the Indiana schools because they hadn't . . . you see, very few schools had it. And none of them really specialized very much in actually teaching methods and how to go about setting up a department of physical ed in a high school. So, that was our . . .

SD: You had to teach them sports and calisthenics and dancing.

MRS. A: We taught them absolutely everything from . . . and all the different sports and . . .

MRS. S: And this was only done from about 1922 on.

MRS. A: Nineteen hundred twenty-two, yes. I graduated in '23, and I had taught quite a few unprepared classes before I graduated. Miss Sanger would go away and I'd always take her classes. So, I had my practice teaching actually doing it. I didn't go and practice in the Training School. I got mine in the college.

SD: Was sports an important item in girls' life at that time?

MRS. A: Not anything like it is . . . we had absolutely no intercollege sports. It was unheard of for a team from . . . girls to go out and play in some other college. We had some intersorority games and some interclass games, things like that, but absolutely no competition between schools or anything. That was not . . . it was just not done.

SD: Do you have any recollections of them ever having played St. Mary-of-the Woods?

MRS. A: he went to St. Mary's when I was teaching. Now, whether we . . . we didn't go to . . . we didn't play them. No, we didn't play any other school. It seems funny now but it . . . that's very true. You didn't need it.

SD: Was basketball a big game at that time?

MRS. A: It wasn't a big one. No, not for girls. It was for boys, but the girls' game was very . . . the girls played on certain limits. And so that they didn't run much . . . You'd better turn it off. He doesn't know . . .

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. A: One day after I was married and I had a little 3-year-old girl, Dorothy Rose, to my front door came two women. And I knew both of them, and I wondered why in the world they'd be coming to see me. When they came in . . . Miss Helen Benbridge, who had been treasurer of the college board when I was teaching, used to come by and watch my classes a lot and so she knew how I functioned with girls. When Miss Orth -- Mrs. Orth -- who was the wife of the head of the Commercial Solvents now, IMC, or International Minerals and Chemicals Corp.⁷ at the time, decided that she thought Terre Haute should have a Girl Scout camp where her daughters could go to camp from Terre Haute rather than from out of Chicago where they had been going to a private camp, she talked to Miss Benbridge. They were friends at the Country Club, and they got to talking about Terre Haute not having anything and why didn't they and so forth. So, Miss Benbridge says, "I know the girl you should get to start a camp." So, they came up to see me. And when they mentioned it, I said, "Why I don't know one thing about Girl Scouts . . . Girl Scouting. I don't know . . . I've never been to a camp in my life and I don't . . . I haven't had any camp training. And I have a 3-year-old daughter and a husband. And how could I go to camp?"

Well, they didn't see why I couldn't. And so they said, "We're going to wait until Mr. Annakin comes home. We're going to talk to him." (laughs) And then he was due home in a little while. And he came home and they broached the subject to him. And he said, "Well, I don't know why she can't." And so he was willing for me to leave (laughing)

MRS. A: him. And they . . . Mrs. Orth had a little girl the same age as our little girl, and she said, "I'll go to the hotel and stay and keep your little girl while you direct camp. There are about 35 girls that want to go to camp next summer." And they were from three scout troops in town.

So, I said, "Well, I'll do my best." I'd been in church work and had done a lot of directing games and things like that. And, of course, all that came under my work at school, at the college when I taught.

So, we went. Off we went with our 3-year-old and all of our bedding and so forth. Dewey took us to McCormick's Creek State Park where we had rented a camp, which was not really a camp. It was a big old barracks in the place of where the museum was years later. And we fixed the place for the little girls and another place for the little older girls. And then out on the ridge we had lovely big tents that the army had left, so we put the older girls in the tents which they thought was just great.

So, that week we did have a wonderful, good time. I think the girls got very much from living in the woods and being in the camp, although we didn't have our own dining room at that time because the only camp that was there was the Na-wa-kwa leader. But it was just a camp rented at that time by the Indianapolis Girl Scouts. So, we had to take . . . we had to go to the hotel to eat. So, the hotel said that they would feed the 35 girls for a dollar a day for the three meals and that made our fee for the camp. We charged five dollars for each girl.

SD: A week?

MRS. A. A week, yeah. And the board members that I mentioned in the history went around to the different ones that . . . Most of them were well-to-do women, and they gave enough that we could have the girls for five dollars. And, of course, I didn't take any pay, or anybody that came to help me came for nothing. And so . . .

MRS. S: What year was this?

MRS. A: That was 1929. Nineteen /hundred/ twenty-nine, I think. And there was a lovely pool that was there, all up until just recently and right outside of where the old hotel was which is the site of the new hotel, later. And we did have a wonderful . . . we had a wonderful fellow there. We called him "Bugs," because he was the nature boy. And he took us on hikes and taught us all the trees in the park and we knew every bird, I think. We would go on bird hikes and we had a lot of folk dancing, because I knew folk dancing. We put on quite good campfires and had a lot of programs with the girls. They had such a good time that week that all of them wanted to stay another week. So, they approached me to see if I would. I had such a good time, I said, "Yes, I thought we could." So, we stayed two weeks /at/ that first camp that was supposed to be a week.

The next year we got the big camp, the other big camp. And it had no name and I was going to make an Indian theme for that summer. We were going to have all the counselors named Indian names and I took the name of Redwing.

END OF TAPE 1

TAPE 2-SIDE 1

SD: It didn't have a name when . . . you were the one that gave it the name?

MRS. A: Yes. And so I found out that Na-wa-kwa meant "in the midst of the woods." And I thought this was a very good name for our camp. It was in the midst of a beautiful woods. And we made signs and we had the name Na-wa-kwa.

The next year before we went to camp, Governor McNutt, who was the governor at that time, wrote to me and asked if I would give permission to make that the state name for the park. So, that's the only thing that I can ever say that I was the author of. (laughs heartily) So, that's been Na wa-kwa ever since.

And then when Terre Haute had their own camp, they gave the privilege to the girls to name that

MRS. A: camp. And I think about unanimously it was . . . that these girls wanted the Terre Haute camp to be called Na-wa-kwa. So, that's why Na-wa-kwa out in Poland /Indiana/ is the same as the Na-wa-kwa the name - as we had at McCormick's Creek and is still the name of that camp at McCormick's Creek.

SD: Oh, I see.

Did Terre Haute have a Girl Scout chapter at that time?

MRS. A: What do you mean by "chapter"?

SD: Well, was there Girl Scout troops?

MRS. A: There were three troops at that time. A Mrs. McGuirk's troop and Miss /Pauline/ Bartruff at the Goodwill had a troop. Mrs. Legg at the Congregational Church had a troop. Now there may have been one other that maybe didn't . . . we didn't know so much about. I think somebody else had a group of girls that had called themselves Girl Scouts. But these were registered troops that had . . . at that time, Miss Helen Benbridge was the first commissioner. They used to call them commissioners. And she was the first commissioner, and she was the one who came to get me to be the camp director. They had no paid director in Terre Haute at that time. This was just a group of scout troops that wanted to do something.

And the people I had to come help me were Miss Bartruff . . . no, Miss Bartruff was working at the Goodwill. Now, wait Mrs. /Audra/ Richardson. Mrs. Richardson was on North 7th Street /and/ had a good troop at Maple Avenue church. And she came to help me. Catherine Clark from the Presbyterian church - Mrs. McGuirk's troop came to be office girl and sort of general flunkie. She turned out to be the nurse girl for my 3-year-old who never left camp. She didn't go to the hotel at all. She just loved camp so she stayed in the camp from the beginning. And Miss Clark would always look after Dot. If I was busy doing something, why Dot would be with her. So, I always called her my right hand man; for about five . . . oh, about ten years, I guess, she came to camp every year with me.

SD: This isn't the same Catherine Clark that's the . . . like the historian now in Terre Haute?

MRS. A: Well now, I don't know.

MRS. S: That's Dorothy Clark.

SD: That's Dorothy. O.K.

MRS. A: Oh, yes. Dorothy Clark came much after my time.

SD: Yes.

MRS. A: No, Catherine Clark lived on North 11th Street and she was a . . . she had a brother.

MRS. S: Wasn't she secretary at the "Y" for a while?

MRS. A: What?

MRS. S: Wasn't she secretary at the "Y" . . .

MRS. A: Secretary at the YNCA for many years and she always went to the First Presbyterian Church where Mrs. McGuirk went. That's how she got started in sort of helping the Girl Scouts.

I was trying to think who else. Oh! Winifred Legg, who had the troop at the Congregational Church. They backed the camp so much, nearly 100% they came. And that was the one that Mrs. Blumberg's girls were in and quite a number . . . Mrs. Orr's girls. They gave us more financial backing than any other troop, I think.

And then Winifred Legg . . . we called . . . what did we call here? I was trying to think of what her camp name was. We all went by camp names. Isn't that awful? I didn't think I'd ever forget that. As far as I know, she's still living in Palo Alto, California.

But she went to camp with me all the years I went to camp and was wonderful, wonderful help. She was an Englishwoman who came from England here with her husband, who was with Commercial Solvents, also. He was an English scientist and very well-known in chemistry.

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. A: Was . . . you mean that we started? That's at Na-wa-kwa, McCormick's Creek State Park.

SD: O.K. And then it moved to Poland, Indiana?

MRS. A: Well, years later after we had a scout director for several years. That was Kermit Cochran and Margaret Gisloe; they headed the Terre Haute camps. And they were paid directors all year long. The Terre Haute camp in Poland started when the national wanted to get another camp in this locality, and they didn't count the camps that were run locally. They had to have their . . . they had to have the whole say about what was going on in that camp and make the plans which really was a bad thing.

The first year that they didn't have a Terre Haute camp and went to Poland, they had about eight or ten girls from Terre Haute go when we had had 125 the year before in camp. So you see, they didn't do anything to make the local group or make the local adult population interested in camp and do anything about helping the girls go to camp. There were always camperships and things like that given to a girl who couldn't afford it. But that meant the board worked all year making money to help this camp fund so they could take the girl who couldn't afford to go. Because, of course, eventually the cost went up for the state. We had to pay so much for every girl in camp. We had swimming -- wonderful swimming -- from the very beginning and a beautiful pool. And we only paid a quarter a day per girl to be in that state park and be in camp, which was marvelous. Of course, it's gone to a dollar now or maybe more. I don't know. But the most that the girls ever paid while I was directing that camp was \$10 a week. Now scout camps are \$85 to \$100 a week. (laughs)

SD: And you were directing the camp from . . .

MRS. A: I directed Terre Haute camp from 1929, when it started, until 1937. Then I helped these girls who took on the job the year 'round. In fact, I directed camp one year. Margaret Gisloe came with me to learn about it. And the same . . . I had gotten Kermit Cochran, who had been teaching in Marshall in physical ed (I had taught her in physical ed),

MRS. A: and she came to be Terre Haute's Girl Scout executive. And so then the next year she went from counselor to director and I could quit. I was wanting to quit at that time because I was having Ginnie. And then I was going to have Bo 19 months later, and I didn't ever expect to go back to camp.

But when Ginnie was two or three years old -- you /Ginnie/ were two and Bo was one -- they came and begged me to take the Brownies. I had suggested all the time that the Brownies should not be with the Girl Scouts because the age is different. Their program's different and everything. And the Brownies do much better in a camp by themselves.

So, since I had made that wild suggestion, they came and said I had to take the Brownie camp. So, then we went to another camp, Camp Friendly, which was in another part of the park. I organized the Brownie camp on a little different basis. I had a mother in each cabin along with a college girl. So, we had the young and the older to balance the staff. And we had then about eight Brownies with every two adults, which made a good ratio. And I think we had a marvelous Brownie camp for how many years? Didn't have any Brownies ever get homesick, and that's something you know.

MRS. S: It started in '39.

MRS. A: We had about how many though? We had about 80 Brownies, didn't we? About 80 Brownies each year. And my goodness, a few years after that Poland camp started, they just could hardly find the Terre Haute girls in the last camp.

SD: Was that when they created the Covered Bridge Council that took . . .

MRS. A: Well, a little later they did. Yes. A little later. It became . . .

SD: But that sort of diffused . . .

MRS. A: It became too national. No local person had much interest in it. Now, when I think of all those wonderful women that helped me on being on

MRS. A: the council, they stimulated the Terre Haute people to be interested in the camp, you know. And they gave their money to . . . I remember Mrs. Fanny Blumberg taking a bunch of Girl Scouts out to her place, and they picked raspberries and all. One day, Mrs. Blumberg and these girls made jam for camp, you know.

And didn't . . . Mrs. Acher was marvelous at her job of organizing the food and trying to get good cooks for me and things like that. So, I had wonderful help later, and they were all women that I had known before and had worked with on the faculty . . . well, Mrs. Acher was on the faculty. Her husband was on the Indiana State faculty.

And they were the leading . . . most of them were the sort of well-to-do women because they were the women who Helen Benbridge and Mrs. Blumberg and all those knew, you know. So, they really helped enormously. I can't say I did that all. I think they did a wonderful job of being on my council.

SD: Hmm. And you worked with the Brownie camp up until . . .

MRS. A: How many years did I go to Brownie camp? I can't remember.

MRS. S: Nineteen hundred fifty-five. 'Til I was about a senior in high school.

MRS. A: Did I have the Brownie camp along with the . . . I mean, after the Girl Scout camp?

MRS. S: Yes. You had Terre Haute Brownie camp. Then you had Greencastle Brownie camp, and then you had Greencastle Scout camp.

MRS. A: Well, they came . . . well, maybe so. They came to me again and wanted me to take the older girls after I'd had the Brownies. And so I had the two and the two got along so beautifully in camp. We took the girl that lived with us at the time to take care of Bo. Ginnie did like Dot, she just went right in the camp at three, or two or three, and went swimming and went hiking and everything

MRS. A: else. Then Bo came along, and Bo was a great big boy 14 years old before we quit, I think.

SD: (laughs)

MRS. A: . And when he started dating the counselors, I decided it was time to quit. (laughs heartily)

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. S: . . . Max Ehrmann and some people that were on the faculty with you? Gwill Isaacs was on the faculty with you.

ANNAKIN: The last few years . . .

MRS. A: Talk about the early years when Max Ehrmann used to come to the Union Building and eat lunch with you.

ANNAKIN: Well, of course, Max was a lonely soul, so he came there for companionship more than anything else. And he came down and ate his lunch with a bunch of us every day. So much so if he was absent, somebody went down to his apartment which was on South 6th Street, one block south of Main, and we'd go down and check on him to see if anything was wrong. And he was invited to write an ode to be read at the centennial chapel . . .

MRS. A: At DePauw University.

ANNAKIN: . . . at DePauw University, a hundred years. And he said he'd write it if they'd let me read it. So, I did. I couldn't quote it now, but it got a lot of notoreity. And he was a very remarkable man and I was quite fond of him. He was old enough to be my father, and a lot of things we didn't agree on; but a heck of a lot of things, we did agree on. Certainly two of those things was the worth of Max Ehrmann and the worth of Dewey Annakin. (laughs) (all join in laughter)

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. A: I was in uniform; I was in shorts. (laughter)

MRS. S: This was before ERA.

MRS. A: Who would want to be in camp with long . . . (laughing) with a long dress on?

MRS. S: Yes, but everybody wore dresses and you wore shorts.

SD: But you had a dancing school in your home?

MRS. A: Oh, yes! When Dot was four years old, I had been giving her, oh, gymnastics, and you know, acrobatics and so forth. We had hardwood floors, and I'd put back all the furniture and bring down a bed mattress; and we'd have a lot of headstands and twists and somersaults and, of course, with her little friends. So, the little friends advertised it so that the other mothers came and said, "Why don't you take our children and have a class?" So, I thought, "Oh, well, why not?"

And I liked it as well as they did. So, I had a famous class. They each had to pay a quarter for these lessons.

ANNAKIN: (starts chuckling)

MRS. A: And they'd come once a week for an hour and I had them like we did regular class. They had to learn to march and they had to learn all these things. And so, the gymnastic class of 4-year-olds went on until I had about five classes a week of different age groups. It went into folk dancing. You can imagine. And, of course, the living room is a nice size for eight kids to dance, and we had folk dancing. And Dot watched those classes from a baby bed. I had to keep her out of the swim of things, or she would have wrecked it all by trying to dance in all of them. And so she learned all those dances in her baby bed. She would shock the family at dinner time that night by knowing most of those dances herself. So, from that time . . . do you remember any of the dances? I didn't keep on doing that when you came. No. I think that was just through Dot's childhood. See, Dot was 11 when Ginnie came. So by that time I had two others, and I think the house was kind of swaying. They decided that I'd better not have classes or we wouldn't have (laughing) any house. And they did have to change one of the supports under the house. I'm ashamed to tell. I wouldn't let you do that now.
(continuing to laugh)

MRS. S: You wouldn't let me do what?

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